
Severe Public Health Hazard in the City of Carnation Letter



Public Health

Seattle & King County

HEALTHY PEOPLE. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

Dorothy F. Teeter, MHA, Interim Director and Health Officer

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ROTHHILL ENGR. PARTNERS, LLC
BELLEVUE, WA

September 28, 2005

Bill Brandon, City Manager
City of Carnation
4621 Tolt Avenue
P.O. Box 1238
Carnation, WA 98014

RE: **Severe Public Health Hazard** in the City of Carnation

Dear Mr. Brandon,

Due to continued public exposure to surfacing sewage and untreated sewage entering the ground water aquifer, current on-site sewage disposal practices in the City of Carnation are clearly inadequate and present a **Severe Public Health Hazard** to the community.

As stated in a letter dated December 2, 1987, Dr. Bud Nicola, then Director and Health Officer, determined that the existing on-site sewage disposal system was inadequate. He further stated that the soil conditions allow untreated sewage to enter the ground water aquifer which is used as a drinking water source. These problems continue to worsen as existing onsite systems approach the end of their useful lives and as population growth in the area increases the overall waste load.

Public Health--Seattle & King County issued the City of Carnation another Public Health Hazard letter in 2003. While we are encouraged to know the City has made substantial progress toward constructing the necessary public sewer system, we must again express our concern for water quality and protecting public health.

Recent survey information documenting a significant number of failures previously unreported to the Health Department and the citywide distribution of those failures, even in the newest septic systems, causes us both alarm and concern for protection of the health of Carnation's citizens. Many of these failures have included sewage on the surface of the ground, placing citizens at risk of contracting serious and potentially life-threatening illnesses.

Office of the Director

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Because of these continuing violations of both surface and underground water quality, Public Health strongly supports the development of a sewer system for the City of Carnation to alleviate this Severe Public Health Hazard.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Teeter
Interim Director and Health Officer

cc: Roth Hill Engineering, Attn: Laurie Fulton, P.E., 2600 116th Ave NE, #100,
Bellevue, WA 98004
Larry Fay, Wastewater Supervisor, PHSKC